## Help the Academy Help You! Send Us Your Email Address

The Internet is rapidly becoming one of our most powerful avenues for communication. It allows us to communicate rapidly with a large proportion of our membership with the click of a mouse.

The Academy currently maintains a data base of email addresses for all of its members, providing rapid, efficient contact on topics of interest. At this time, we have accurate email addresses on file for about half of the membership, a 50 percent increase from one year ago. While there are certainly a few who may not use email at all, we assume that there are a number of members who do use the Internet on a regular basis and have still not provided us with a current email address.

It is vital that each member submit an email address today so that the Academy can quickly act on your behalf when a major issue arises.

It should be absolutely clear that the Academy will not abuse your email in any way. The Internet privacy policy, available online at www.entlink.net, states that these addresses and any other personal information will not be released to outside commercial, charitable, or professional organizations under any circumstances. Furthermore, a member can ask to be removed from the Academy email data base at any time. Internal guidelines prevent excessive email contact and limit any electronic correspondence between the Academy and its members to occasional notifications on topics perceived to be of mutual concern and interest as well as the highly popular ENeT News.

## Instant communication is powerful

We recently witnessed the tremendous power and benefits of instant communication via email in New York State. Critical legislation regarding the expansion of dentist scope-of-practice likely would have gone unnoticed by many of our members in New York if it

were not for a rapid email communication to 1,000 otolaryngologists. They were immediately notified of this impending problem and as a group were able to deal with this matter promptly. In the rapidly changing field of medicine, alerts such as these can prove beneficial. Email is cheaper, faster, and easier to use as a means of communication than the *Bulletin*, phone, fax, or snail mail.

If you have not provided the Academy with a current email address, we strongly encourage you to do so. Simply send an email to membership@entnet.org, and specify whether or not you would like your address published in the "find a colleague" section of the member-only portal, www.entlink.net. We hope that the membership data base will continue to be a useful tool to help the Academy provide you with timely and helpful information.

Michael Rothschild, MD Chair, Technology Infrastructure Committee Michael Setzen MD, Chair, Board of Governors

